

Remarks

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 26, 2003. Claims 27 -52 were rejected.

Claims 1-26 were originally presented and subsequently canceled. Claims 27-52 were previously added. Claims 27-52 remain in the application. Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to address minor § 112 issues without narrowing the scope thereof.

Double Patenting

Claims 27-52 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 8, 12-16, 19, 23, 25 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,386,409.

A Terminal Disclaimer is included herewith to overcome this rejection.

Claim Objections

Claim 35 was objected to because of the following informality: the presence of “,” in line 9.

Claim 35 has been amended to cure this defect.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 34-42 stand rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 34 recited the limitation of “the first and second lid latches.”

Claim 34 has been amended to recite proper dependence from claim 31.

With regard to claim 35, the Examiner indicated that the word “means” is preceded by the word “actuator” in an attempt to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function without specifying the function of the word “actuator.”

Claim 35 originally read “. . . and lid actuator means, rotatably coupled to the base structure, *for engaging and latching the lid latch while in the first coupling position*; . . .” (emphasis added). Thus, the function of the actuator means is to engage and latch the lid latch while in the first coupling position. Claim 35 has been amended to clarify this matter and now reads: “. . . lid actuator means for engaging and latching the lid latch while in the first coupling position, said lid actuator means being rotatably coupled to the base structure . . .”

Applicant submits that it is now more clearly possible to determine the equivalents of the element, as specified by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Conclusion

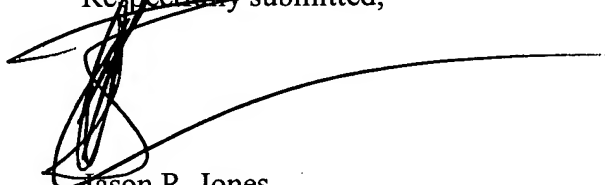
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 27-52 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Garron M. Hobson or Jason R. Jones at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Check No. 17222, in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed pursuant to i) 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) for a one month extension of time, and ii) 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d) for entry of the Terminal Disclaimer included herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 25th day of June, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jason R. Jones', written over the typed name.

Jason R. Jones
Registration No. 51,008

THORPE, NORTH & WESTERN, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633